

Message Text

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16

ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WARSAW 7187

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PL, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI'S MEETING WITH PZPR-CC FIRST
SECRETARY EDWARD GIEREK, OCTOBER 16, 1974; RFE

REF: WARSAW 7026

1. DURING CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI'S OCTOBER 16 MEETING WITH HIM,
FIRST SECRETARY GIEREK COMPLAINED THAT "RECENTLY...EVEN THE
VOICE OF AMERICAN HAD THROWN A STONE, ALLEGING THAT POLAND WAS
A SATELLITE AND LESS THAN A SOVEREIGN STATE". SUBSEQUENTLY,
THE EMBASSY REQUESTED THE POLISH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
TO SPECIFY WHICH BROADCAST THE FIRST SECRETARY HAD HAD IN MIND.

2. THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE MFA'S DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
AND CULTURAL COOPERATION, ALOJZY BARTOSZEK, INFORMED US
OCTOBER 31 (A WEEK AFTER WE FIRST INQUIRED) THAT GIEREK WAS
REFERRING TO BROADCASTS OF RFE, NOT VOA, IN HIS COMMENT TO
CONGRESSMAN ZABLOCKI.

3. BARTOSZEK SAID THAT, SINCE GIEREK HAD MADE A REPRESENTATION
ABOUT RFE BROADCASTS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND HAD THUS FAR NOT
RECEIVED AN ANSWER, HE HAD USED THE OCCASION OF THE
CONGRESSMAN'S VISIT TO "MAKE A REMINDER" OF HIS CONTINUING
CONCERN.

4. BARTOSZEK THEN RECALLED THAT RFE BROADCASTS HAD BEEN
DISCUSSED SEVERAL TIME WITH THE EMBASSY BEFORE THE
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COMPLAINT TO THE SECRETARY AND ADDED THAT THE SUBJECT

HAD NOT BEEN RAISED RECENTLY, PENDING AN ANSWER TO THE PRESENTATION TO SECRETARY KISSINGER.

5. WE HAVE NOTICED, BARTOSZEK SAID, THAT RECENT RFE BROADCASTS HAVE BEEN PARTICULARLY "SHARP", PERHAPS, HE SAID, BECAUSE OF THE UPCOMING PARTY CONGRESS. RFE'S ACCOUNTS OF DEVELOPMENTS IN POLAND ARE "OFTEN WRONG OR VERY LATE", BARTOSZEK SAID, ADDING THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE TONE OF RFE FREQUENTLY WAS VERY MUCH LIKE THAT OF RADIO TIRANA. WE COULD MAKE A VERY FUNNY ISSUE OF SZPILKI (THE WEEKLY HUMOR MAGAZINE), BARTOSZEK SAID, BY PRINTING COUNTERPOSED QUOTATIONS FROM RFE AND RADIO TIRANA.

6. BARTOSZEK CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT HE HOPED HIS COMMENTS WOULD BE PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT AND THAT "WE WILL HEAR SOMETHING OF IT". HE SAID HE HAD WANTED "TO REMIND YOU THAT THE ISSUE IS STILL ALIVE".

7. BARTOSZEK WAS INFORMED THAT HIS COMMENTS WOULD BE REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

8. COMMENT: THROUGHOUT HIS PRESENTATION, BARTOSZEK'S TONE WAS AMICABLE. IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE WAS INSTRUCTED TO MAKE A PARTICULARLY STRONG CASE DURING THE DISCUSSION TODAY. NONETHELESS, HIS COMMENTS WERE A POINTED REMINDER OF CONTINUED OFFICIAL CONCERN ABOUT RFE BROADCASTS AND OF OFFICIAL POLISH SENSITIVITY TO RFE BROADCASTING IN THE PERIOD PRECEDING THE PZPR CONGRESS AND, PROBABLY MORE IMPORTANTLY, PRECEDING POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME NEW ECONOMIC DECISIONS. END COMMENT.
DAVIES

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